

# LAY LEADERSHIP UPDATE

DECEMBER 2013

VOL IV NO 5



## A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

As we live into the darkening days of December, we are once again invited into the renewal of Advent. Where is my heart centered? On whom is my heart set? From where does my activity originate. This season of Advent calls us to a renewal of our hearts for ministry. We continue to serve God's people in these ways:

**Praying with St. Ignatius, Parish Retreat.** During this past month of November, 72 retreatants completed the 6 and 8-week retreats held at Jesuit Retreat House, Gesu Parish and St. Mary Parish, Hudson. This month, we will be meeting to review our experience, making plans for our Lenten retreats which will take place at Lakewood Catholic Academy and St. Basil the Great Parish. **Joan Carney**, Praying with St. Ignatius Coordinator has been meeting with several parish representatives as we begin now to prepare for the 2014-2015 program year. In addition, **Amy McKenna** and **Jean Sullivan** have attended Suburban Southeast and Suburban Southwest Diocesan District Meetings to describe this parish retreat opportunity. They will be speaking at three more district meetings during the month of January.



Nurturing the Call Facilitators, Mary Ann Burke, SND and Janet Lehane

**Nurturing the Call.** Our three-part series concluded this past month of November. We focused on "Guiding Gospel Contemplation for Large Groups." During our concluding session, Sr. **Mary Ann** shared an inspiring reflection from John English, SJ, "Guides cannot know whether their guidance will in fact produce the results they desire. This is the function of the Spirit who may have other designs for the participants. In any case, they have provided material to the best of their discernment. After the Spirit has brought about some new development, whatever it may be, guides can then turn their attention to what has actually happened, and move ahead from there." Consoling words! See next page for some information on our December program. Still time to register!

**Food for the Journey.** This program which focuses on "The Process of Conversion in the Life of Augustine of Hippo" continues this month. See more details on the next page



## CALLED AND SENT SPIRITUAL FORMATION PROGRAM Module News

### ENCOUNTERING THE LIVING GOD THROUGH JESUS CHRIST

This module is being designed and developed by Dr. Andy Kereky who is pastoral associate at St. Raphael Parish, Bay Village and also an Ignatian Spirituality Institute graduate. It will be piloted in fall, 2014.

### EMBRACING LIFE, EMBRACING DEATH

Dr. Karen Broer and Joan Carney, both graduates of the Ignatian Spirituality Institute at John Carroll University, are teaming up to design and develop this module which will focus on aspects of the spiritual journey such as suffering and death, redemption and grace. The pilot is planned for fall, 2014.



Designing and developing the modules described above are: (left to right) Karen Broer, Andy Kereky and Joan Carney



### WELCOME TO IGNATIAN ADULTHOOD: A PROGRAM IN DISCERNMENT AND DECISION-MAKING

This module, begun in late September, concluded with a day-long retreat which was held on November 16<sup>th</sup>. 10 young adults completed the program. These are some comments from the participants: "I grew in awareness of God in all things. The different ways of listening to God were a great help." "I loved the Scripture discussions and found the exercises for prayer and discernment most meaningful." "The Practice of the Examen was the most thorough/helpful way I have ever had it presented to me!" The module is now being adapted for a general audience with hopes of taking this to one of our diocesan parishes in the spring.

### OTHER MODULES

Plans continue for taking the remaining modules (Ignatian Spirituality: Grounding for Life and Leadership, The Christian at Work in the World and Living Prayer: My Life in God) to various settings in the diocese of Cleveland.





## DEEPENING OUR AWARENESS - SOMETHING TO PONDER

### THE SPIRIT OF SILENCE

A Reflection from Very Reverend Adolfo Nicolás, SJ

In his concluding speech at the recent Congregation of Procurators, Fr. General Adolfo Nicolas, SJ urged Jesuits around the world to recover the spirit of silence. It is a timely message for all of us in these busy times and perhaps the season of Advent offers a perfect opportunity to cultivate this spirit. As December days darken, the movement of nature is to withdraw in preparation for the replenishment of spring. The call is for us to go within asking for the grace of open and silent hearts. The silence of our hearts is indeed a beautiful place to meet God and then, returning to our busy, active lives we will bring a softened presence to all whom we encounter, to all that we do in the name of Christ. Here is what Fr. Nicolas said on the subject of silence:

I believe that one of the primary challenges facing the Society today is that of recovering the spirit of silence. I am not thinking of disciplinary measures, fixed times of silence, going back to religious houses that look more like monasteries. Rather, I am thinking of the hearts of our men.

We all need a place inside ourselves where there is no noise, where the voice of the Spirit of God can speak to us, softly and gently, and direct our discernment. In a very true sense we need the ability to become ourselves silence, emptiness, an open space that the Word of God can fill, and the Spirit of God can set on fire for the good of others and of the Church.

More than ever, every Jesuit should be able to live like a monk in the middle of the noise of the city - as an Orthodox friend of ours once said. That means that our hearts are our monasteries and at the bottom of every activity, every reflection, every decision, there is silence, the kind of silence that one shares only with God.

May our observance of Advent result in quiet, open, silent hearts that inspire our every activity!



### THE SPIRIT OF SILENCE - THE SPIRIT OF ADVENT

In a very true sense we need the ability to become ourselves silence, emptiness, an open space that the Word of God can fill, and the Spirit of God can set on fire for the good of others and of the Church.

- Adolfo Nicolás, SJ

## THIS MONTH ...

### NURTURING THE CALL

Open to Leaders/Facilitators of *Praying with St. Ignatius* and the St. Ignatius & Walsh Spirituality Program for Adults  
**The Spiritual Exercises: Renewal and Dynamics**

Hear Jesuit scholars discuss their extensive research leading to a renewal of the way the *Spiritual Exercises* are practiced.

Includes DVD and discussion.

Saturday Morning from 9:30 - 11:30

(Coffee and Conversation beginning at 9:00 a.m.)

**December 7**

Still time to register with Janet Lehane @ [jlehane@ignatius.edu](mailto:jlehane@ignatius.edu)

### FOOD FOR THE JOURNEY

**The Process of Conversion in the Life of  
Augustine of Hippo**

A Book Reflection Group Facilitated by Martha Campbell  
Open to Spiritual Directors, Retreat Leaders, Pastoral Ministers  
and Those Who have Made the Full Exercises

Saturday Mornings from 9:30 - 11:30

(Coffee and Conversation beginning at 9:00 a.m.)

**December 14**

Held at The Franciscan Center, Garfield Heights, OH

## COMING IN 2014 ... SAVE THESE DATES

### FOOD FOR THE JOURNEY

**The Process of Conversion in the Life of  
Francis of Assisi**

A Book Reflection Group Facilitated by Martha Campbell  
Open to Spiritual Directors, Retreat Leaders, Pastoral Ministers  
and Those Who have Made the Full Exercises

Saturday Mornings from 9:30 - 11:30

(Coffee and Conversation beginning at 9:00 a.m.)

**January 18, February 15, March 15, April 12**

Held at The Franciscan Center, Garfield Heights, OH

Details to follow.

### IGNATIAN CURRENTS

Facilitated by Howard Gray, SJ

**SEARCHING FOR GOD THROUGH IMAGINATION AND STORY:  
LIVING OUT THE IGNATIAN TRADITION**

OPEN TO ALL

Friday, May 30<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 31<sup>st</sup> at from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
(with Eucharist 4:00 p.m.)



Jesuit Retreat House  
5629 State Road  
Parma, OH 44134

Lay Leadership Programs - Martha Campbell, Director

Phone - (440) 884-9300 X 316

Fax - (440) 885-1055

E-mail: [campbellmarthal@gmail.com](mailto:campbellmarthal@gmail.com)

